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Title: Regarding providing national scholarships to minority students.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): Thank you, Madam. The issue that I am going to raise is very important. I hope I had been given four hours time to discuss this issue. This is such an important issue.

Hon. Madam, I am raising this issue in 'Zero Hour'. The issue is regarding national scholarships to be given to minority students of the whole country. The Government of India has recently launched a programme for giving scholarships to the meritorious students which will be implemented through a web portal. The students are applying for this scholarship. But the web portal is not properly functioning. Around four lakh such applications are pending with the Government of West Bengal and the students are rushing to know about their fate. They also want to know as to how they can get the scholarship.

In this regard, the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal wrote a letter to the hon. Prime Minister on 23rd July, 2016 appreciating him that it is a very positive policy under which the Government of India has taken care of the welfare of minority students. But if the web portal launched by the Central Government is not functioning properly, the State Government should be given authority to release the scholarship amount on its behalf so that the minority students can be benefited under this scheme.

I think that it is a demand from all the Members of the House. The scheme has been launched by the Government. We support it. Let it be implemented. Thank you.